

H. Preservation of records of the erstwhile Princely States

(8) Resolution by Shri J. K. Jain

“Resolved that the records of historical importance which have been retained by the former rulers, thikanedars, jagirdars and officials be preserved (in situ) by concerned State Archives”.

Explanatory Note : As the Members of the Commission are aware of the fact that soon after Independence and the amalgamation of various former States in the Union of India quite a sizable bulk of records was retained by the former rulers, jagirdars and officials on the plea that these records were of their personal use and related to their property, etc. Since then it has been found out that in most of the cases these people have lost interest in these records and those have been lying with them uncared. At the same time due to sentimental reasons they are not willing to part with these also. Under the circumstances the best course would be that all such collections which are open for the survey scheme or in cases where owners are willing to get their collections preserved, be preserved in their respective premises by the concerned State Archives. No doubt it may amount to an additional work for the concerned State Archives and some financial burden too in term of insecticides, etc., but this will definitely win the hearts of all such owners who in turn may be more co-operative and helpful in making their collections available for survey and research. Otherwise, in view of the existing financial difficulties or lack of interest of most of the owners, the future of such collections is rather uncertain.

Standing Committee's views : These problems have been discussed time and again at the previous sessions of the Commission. The enactment of an Archival Law in respect of records of National Importance which is under the consideration of the Government, will take care of such problems.

Proceedings : The resolution was discussed in some detail and passed as members felt that States Archives should certainly be authorised to preserve important historical records. Wherever they might be located.

Resolution IV : “Resolved that the records of historical importance which have been retained by the former rulers, thikanedars, jagirdars and officials be preserved (in situ) by the concerned State Archives”.

I. Microfilming of records of Parthagali Math

9. Resolution by Dr. G. S. Dikshit

“In view of the fact that the Records of Parthagali Math in Goa will throw light on the relations of the Math, with the Adil Shahi, Maratha, Portuguese and other contemporary powers and also on the religious, social and economic conditions during the last three centuries and therefore are of national importance, the Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that these records should be microfilmed by the National Archives of India and thus preserved for all times and also be made available to research students in Goa and Delhi”.

Explanatory Note : Dr. G. H. Khare on a previous occasion has brought to the notice of this Commission the value of the Parthagali Math records. Quite recently, Dr. S. V. Desikachar has examined these records and has said that they are as valuable as the records of the Sringeri Math. The National Archives has already microfilmed the Sringeri records, with the co-operation of the Karnataka State Archives. In the same way, the Parthagali records which are in Persian and Marathi etc. also need to be microfilmed with the co-operation of the State Archives of Goa and the microfilm copies should be made available to research students in the National Archives and in the Goa State Archives.

Standing Committee's reviews : The Resolution can be supported though the National Archives of India will have to consider many factors including its existing commitments and the financial implications, before undertaking its implementation.

Proceedings : Keeping in view of the clarification given by the Standing Committee, the following resolution was accepted and passed :

Resolution V : "In view of the fact that the Records of Parthagali Math in Goa will throw light on the relations of the Math with the Adil Shahi, Maratha, Portuguese and other contemporary powers and also on the religious, social and economic conditions during the last three centuries and therefore are of national importance, the Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that these records should be microfilmed by the National Archives of India and thus preserved for all times and also be made available to research students in Goa and Delhi".

J. Setting up of Archival Repositories

10. Resolution by Prof. G. H. Khare

"This meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission strongly recommends that the States and centrally administered territories which have no Records Offices should immediately establish their own Records Offices and begin to collect and conserve records of historical and cultural value in addition to the current administrative records which may come to their repositories.

Explanatory Note : In the Union Republic of India there are now about 26 States (Sic) and centrally administered territories. For the last 3 or 4 years or even before we have been urging the various States and Territories to organize their Records Officer. Still the response is not satisfactory. Even the State of Madhya Pradesh has not as yet organised its Records Office though there is every possibility of getting old Records from the merged States of Indore, Gwalior and other Central Indian States. Therefore, this reiteration of the Resolution.

Standing Committee's views : The Indian Historical Records Commission has already passed resolutions recommending that the States/ Union Territories should set up their own Archival Repositories on Modern scientific lines as early as possible (Resolution III, 34th Session and Resolution V, 44th Session).